

Message Text

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ORIGIN PRS-01

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

USINT DAMASCUS

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TOSEC 1048 JERUSALEM ONLY ZFF

E.O 11652:N/A

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT:REPORTAGE OF TRAVELING PRESS, SATURDAY, MAY 25

FOR ANDERSON FROM KING

SUMMARY: COVERAGE OF 10TH VISIT TO DAMASCUS ALL TREATED EXTENSIVELY BUT INSIDE IN ALL NEWSPAPERS AVAILABLE TO US. COMMON STRESS IS ON APPARENT ISRAELI ACCEPTANCE OF HAK'S DISENGAGEMENT PLAN. END SUMMARY

1. GWERTZMAN HAS 800 WORDS PAGE 3 UNDER HEAD "ISRAELI CABINET ENDORSES KISSINGER'S COMPROMISE." HE GOES ON: A SENIOR ISRAELI OFFICIAL SAID THERE WERE SOME RESERVATIONS BUT PLAN WON GENERAL ACCEPTANCE BY CABINET. IF HAK CAN GET SYRIAN AGREEMENT, HE CONTINUES, ISRAELIS WILL GIVE FORMAL APPROVAL SUNDAY AND HAK CAN RETURN TO WASHINGTON WITH DRAMATIC DIPLOMATIC ACHIEVEMENT. AFTER NARRATING HAK'S RECENT BACK AND FORTHING, GWERTZMAN NOTES THAT WHILE UNCLASSIFIED

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HAK HAS KEPT IN TOUCH WITH WASHINGTON BY PHONE AND

TELEGRAPH, ACTING ON MOST MAJOR DAY-TO-DAY DECISIONS, HE HIMSELF CONCEDES THERE HAS BEEN SOME EFFECT ON LONG-RANGE PLANNING AND ON SOME AREAS OF LOWER PRIORITY. NONETHELESS, HE BELIEVES AT MAXIMUM, HE WILL HAVE ENDED FIGHTING AND OPENED WAY TO PERMANENT ME SETTLEMENT; AT MINIMUM, HE FEELS HE WILL HAVE ARRANGED MAJOR PART OF DISENGAGEMENT ACCORD, AND REMAINING ELEMENTS CAN BE

WRAPPED UP IN FEW WEEKS. STORY DWELLS ON HAK'S FAVORITE NEGOTIATING TACTIC -- PRESSING EACH SIDE FOR CONCESSIONS -- AS WAS DONE ON SINAI SETTLEMENT. QTES SECRETARY AS SAYING, "AS I'VE POINTED OUT ON THE REMAINING ISSUES, ESPECIALLY THE THINNING OUT OF FORCES, WE'RE CONSIDERING WHETHER THE TIME IS APPROACHING WHERE AN AMERICAN PROPOSAL MIGHT HELP MATTERS." NO FURTHER QUOTES OF AMERICAN OFFICIALS.

2. LA BERGER HAS 500 WORDS ON PAGE SIX. UNLIKE GWERTZMAN'S CATEGORIC TREATMENT OF ACCEPTANCE OF "AMERICAN PLAN" BY ISRAELI CABINET, SHE IS MORE CAUTIOUS IN REPORTING THAT, ACC SHIMON PRESS, COMPROMISE WILL BE SUBMITTED TO BOTH SIDES THIS WEEKEND. NO SUCH PLAN SUBMITTED YET, SAYS PERES, WHO ADDS HIS "UNDERSTANDING" ONE WILL BE. GOES ON TO QUOTE ANDERSON, ALSO CAUTIOUS, THAT HAK "CONSIDERING THE PRESENTATION OF AN AMERICAN PROPOSAL, "FOLLOWING 3-HOUR MEETING IN WHICH THERE WAS "GOOD PROGRESS IN THAT DIRECTION," ALTHOUGH "NO PIECE OF PAPER" PRESENTED. CONCLUDES BERGER" STRIPPED OF DIPLOMATIC LANGUAGE, IT HAS BECOME CLEAR THAT HAK TENTATIVELY HAS SUGGESTED NUMBER OF IDEAS TO DETERMINE WHAT CAN BE ACCEPTED BY BOTH SIDES. GROWING OUT OF THESE DISCUSSIONS WOULD BE THE FORMAL AMERICAN PROPOSAL PERES MENTIONED. STORY THEN TURNS TO "GROWING CRITICISM" AT HOME OVER LENGTH OF STAY AWAY FROM DOS DUTIES AND "IN THE VIEW OF SOME CRITICS, FOR DEBASING THE ROLE OF SECSTATE BY SHUTTLING AROUND IN SEARCH FOR AGREEMENT." CITES DEFENSE BY AIDES THAT HAK HAS SOUGHT TO SUSPEND SHUTTLE FOR BREATHER BUT THAT BOTH SIDES HAVE URGED HIM TO STAY ON. STORY ENDS WITH SKETCH OF SECRETARY'S ACTIVITIES AND QUOTES FROM HIS TOAST AT EBAN DINNER.

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3. JERRY O HAS 500 WORDS ON PAGE SIX OF STAR, GOING SOMEWHAT DOWN MIDDLE BETWEEN GWERTZMAN AND BERGER. SAYS GOI HAS REACTED FAVORABLY TO SEC'S PROPOSAL ON TROOP/ WEAPONS DEPLOYMENTS, LAST REMAINING BARRIER IN DISENGAGEMENT. DISCLOSURE OF PROPOSAL CREDITED TO EBAN AT DINNER, SHOSE GUESTS QTED AS SAYING HAK WOULD CHANGE TRAVEL PLANS IN VIEW OF ISRAELI ATTITUDE AND GO BACK TO DAMASCUS SUNDAY

TO COMPLETE PACKAGE. STORY THEN DWELLS ON HAK'S TACTIC/
STRATEGY IN PROMOTING PROPOSAL AND SPECULATES ABOUT
HIS IMMEDIATE RETURN TRAVEL PLANS. NO AMERICAN OFFICIALS
QTED.

4. SCHWEID'S AP DAY LEAD HAS SECRETARY HEADING INTO FINAL
ROUND OF TALKS AND SAYS HE'LL GO HOME BY MONDAY NIGHT
DEAL OR NO DEAL. HAS AN AMERICAN OFFICIAL SAYING AMERICAN
PROPOSAL NOT YET PRESENTED FORMALLY TO BOTH SIDES, BUT

THAT IF ASSAD "GIVES" ON FORCE-THINNING AND PEACE-
KEEPING UNIT, HAK WOULD MAKE THE FORMAL PRESENTATION,
ABOUT 2/3 OF WHICH IS ALREADY IN DRAFT. OFFICIAL GOES ON
TO CAUTION THAT "TENDENCY TOWARD HANGUPS" COULD FOIL
SETTLEMENT.

5. WOULD YOU BELIEVE NO UPI COVERAGE. WASHBURO LAMENTS
AGENCY'S NEW YORK COMPUTER BLEW UP AND LANDRY FILE WILL
BE DELAYED IF IT HASN'T ALREADY EVAPORATED INTO ETHER.

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